luru and Bhattiprolu mandalams in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh hitherto good, usable ground water obtained by borowells for irrigation of agricultural lands in the entire area has of late turned saline and of no agriculture use;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such salinity and what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to rectify the situation; and

(c) whether such thing also occured in any other part of the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The deltaic area in the south-eastern part of Guntur District is having the EC values of ground water more than 2000 ms/cm affecting an approximate area of about 2750 sq km.

(b) Reasons for ground water salinity are:—

(i) Application of excess irrigation water;

(ii) Ingress of sea water; and

(iii) Over exploitation of ground water.

The National Water Policy has laid emphasis on avoiding the over exploitation of ground water in the coastal areas to prevent the ingress of sea water into the fresh water aquifers.

(c) Yes, Sir. Similar situation has been experienced in coastal Saurashtra and along the East Coast.

Pesticides poisoning

2796. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government propose to declare pesticide poisoning notifiable in view of the deaths booths?

due to aluminium phosphide which is being sold/transferred by the manufacturers; retailers and Government agencies contrary to rules and regulations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Under Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the State Governments have been empowered to notify their officers for identifying all occurrences of pesticides poisoning (including deaths due to aluminium phosphide) coming within their cognigence: They are also to notify the officers to whom these reports are to be sent. Most of the State Governments have already notified such officers.

Setting up of Central Certification Authority

2797. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to an Article under the certificate Agmark another symbol of quality published in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th August, 1990;

(b) whether it is a fact that grading under Agmark or Agmark Certification is only voluntary for products sold within the country and as per the said Article no item has been put-under compulsory granting, within the country;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any Central Agency has been given statutory powers to check and ban the sale of adulterated edible oils, spices and condiments, Atta, Basin, etc. in the country as lot of variations being noticed in this regard from State to State level booth.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHR UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The article titled "Agmark—another symbol of quality" by Satyan Mohapatra has been published in Hindustan Times dated 4.8.1990.

(b) Yes, Sir. Presently grading under Agmark is on voluntary basis for marketing within the country. Compusory grading for domestic market has not yet been introduced for any commodity.

(c) the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937 did not contain any provision to make Agmark grading compulsory. It is an enabling legislation and, therefore, grading of a commodity in accordance with the Agmark standards prescribed under the Act is on voluntary basis.

With a view to enabling the Central Government to make Agmark grading compulsory for marketing of a scheduled article, the A.P. (G&M) Act, 1937 has been suitably amended in 1986 and a new Section '5B' has been incorporated which empowers the Central Government to prohibit sale of any scheduled article or class of articles is graded under Agmark.

Adequate infrastructure, laboratory testing facility, qualified and trained inspectorate staff have to be organized before introducing compulsory Agmark grading. The programme would have to be taken up in a phased manner. Government is working on this.

(d) Sale of adulterated food items in the country is prohibited under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act which is implemented by the Ministry of Health.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report (1987-89) of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

II. Reports (1982-83 and 1983-84) of the Ministries Commission.

III. Notification publishing Employees State Insurance Corporation (Staff and Conditions of Service) Amendment Regulation, 1990.

IV. Notification publishing the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1989.

श्रम एवं कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूं।

I. संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338 के खंड (2) के अधीन 1987–89 के वर्षों के लिए अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों संबंधी आयोग के उनसठवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1353/90].

II. निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) :—

(i) 1982–83 के वर्ष के लिए अल्पसंख्यक आयोग का पांचवां वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन तथा उस पर की गई कार्यवाही संबंधी ज्ञापन, प्रतिवेदन पर व्याख्यात्मक टिप्पण सहित।

(ii) 1983–84 के वर्ष के लिए अल्पसंख्यक आयोग का छठा वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन तथा उस पर की गई कार्यवाही संबंधी ज्ञापन प्रतिवेदन पर व्याख्यात्मक टिप्पण सहित।

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1392/90 and 1393/90].

III. कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा अधिनियम 1948 की धारा 95 की उपधारा (4) के अधीन कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (कर्म-